**The New River Valley marks the end of environmental awareness month with a bang**

By: Kathleen Miles
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The city of Radford will be holding an environmental fair in Bisset Park on Saturday, April 28th from 9am to 1pm hosted by Radford, the heart of the New River Valley, Goes Green program.

The Fair will mark the conclusion of environmental awareness month by celebrating with numerous activities supporting being environmentally friendly as well as having over thirty vendors from around the New River Valley come to the fair.

The vendors participating are organizations from across the New River Valley working on ways to inform and help people to make the world more environmentally friendly.

Some of the vendors include a children’s craft section making egg carton art and newspaper plant holders, Radford Transit, Radford farmers market, NRV goes green, and a free raffle of composting bins for everyone that attends the fair.

“I think that it’s great that Radford is doing a city event like this to inform people of the precautions they can take to better the environment. If we all put effort towards it we can really change the world,” said senior Alexia Springer.

There will also be a Kodiak shred-a-thon for people to participate in to get rid of any of their paper products that are private or sensitive.

At noon, there will be a special ceremony taking place by a young boy, Ben Dalton, a member of Boy Scouts America Troup 46. This ceremony is the dedication of a part of the trail at Bisset Park being called the “Tree Walk.” Throughout this trail visitors can identify the trees through QR codes on their smart phones, attracting people to the trail and making the walk a more educational experience.

“When I heard what this young boy has done for his Eagle Scout project it really made me admire the hard work put into it. It not only is a way to inform the public about nature, but it is a way to bring in visitors to the park and helps Radford out as a community,” said Roanoke resident Virginia Gust.

Environmental issues and pollution have been an issue of great concern in all of America, but in the New River Valley issues have been magnified in recent years.

In 2008, USA Today ranked air pollution at over 120,000 public schools nationwide and placed Montgomery County Public School’s Belview Elementary school in Radford in the second percentile.

“It is important to work to make the community a better place for our children in all aspects, being environmentally friendly is a starting place that we all can work at,” said Blacksburg resident Rebecca Durham.